



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8, MONTANA OFFICE  
FEDERAL BUILDING, 10 W. 15<sup>th</sup> STREET, SUITE 3200  
HELENA, MONTANA 59626

Ref: 8MO

April 17, 2008

Honorable Terrie Casey  
Mayor  
City of East Helena  
P.O. Box 1170  
East Helena, MT 59635

Dear Mayor Casey:

Thank you for your letter of April 1 in which you asked EPA to complete the East Helena Record of Decision (ROD), and reiterated the City of East Helena's support for the preferred alternative in EPA's East Helena Proposed Plan. I regret I have not been able to meet the previous target dates to complete the ROD. It has been approximately one year since the close of the public comment period for the Proposed Plan.

As you know, EPA and Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) disagree over several aspects of EPA's preferred alternative in the Proposed Plan. EPA and MDEQ have met several times to discuss the areas of disagreement particularly the difference in the lead soil remedial action level. The ROD completion was delayed in hopes of an agreement being reached with the State of Montana which has not yet happened.

Next month, I will be sending the ROD to EPA Headquarters for its review and concurrence. After EPA Headquarters has reviewed the document and I make any needed adjustments, the ROD will be forwarded to MDEQ. At that time, MDEQ will complete its review, and I anticipate will be ready to make its decision about the selected remedy.

The above-described schedule means the ROD may not be finalized until late July at the earliest. I am committed to complete the ROD as expeditiously as possible and will update you periodically on its status. Please do not hesitate to call me at (406) 457-5001 with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

John Wardell  
Director  
Montana Office

Site # EW File 1.08 & 1.10.01  
Confidential: Yes ☐ No ☒  
Admin. Recd: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Key Words/Comments: Response  
by EPA, to letter sent  
by Mayor

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cc: C. Rushin, 8A

R. Oppen, Director, MDEQ